

Supervisor Romaine and Patchogue Mayor Pontieri Announce Plan to Combat DUI and Drunk-Driving for St. Patrick's Day and Throughout the Month of March

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Farmingville, NY - At a press conference held on February 27, Supervisor Ed Romaine joined forces with Patchogue Village Mayor Paul Pontieri and Mothers Against Drunk Driving (M.A.D.D.) to announce a plan to help combat DUI and drunk driving on St. Patrick's Day weekend and throughout the month of March. During the press conference, which was held at Patchogue Village Hall, the Supervisor and the Mayor outlined a plan for the Village's bars and restaurants to offer special free taxi service for their patrons who are unable to drive home. Also in attendance at the press conference was Danielle Rella, MADD program specialist and Tim Florito, owner and president of the Emporium night club in Patchogue. Mr. Florito, who has taken the lead in the free taxi ride program, said that they will share the cost of the cab rides with Clare Rose, Inc. He also noted that the club will offer vouchers to other restaurants and bars in Patchogue so their patrons can take advantage of the program.

Supervisor Romaine said, "Drunk driving accidents can be prevented if people use common sense and don't get behind the wheel if they've been drinking. I thank the owners of the Emporium for providing this life-saving service and I commend Mothers Against Drunk Driving for their role in making the roads safer in Brookhaven Town." The Supervisor also mentioned that there are five major St. Patrick's Day parades throughout Brookhaven and that he will coordinate the Town's efforts to stop DWI during these events with those of the Suffolk County Police Department.

Mayor Pontieri said, "I am proud to stand with Supervisor Romaine and Mothers Against Drunk Driving. Anything that we can do to save lives is a worthwhile effort and I applaud the Tim Florito for his commitment to the safety of the Emporium patrons and others who come to enjoy our village."

Patchogue Village has one of the highest concentrations of nightlife on Long Island, with many bars and restaurants serving thousands of patrons on weekend nights. On December 23, 2012, the Suffolk County Police set up a sobriety checkpoint in the village from 12:00 am to 2:30 am. The officers stopped over 230 vehicles and arrested 6 drivers for DWI.

Division of Public Information * Office of the Supervisor

One Independence Hill • Farmingville • NY 11738 • Phone (631) 451-6595 • Fax (631) 451-6258